Penalty Perpetuating Privacy Falsehoods

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

The federal government has fined a Maryland insurer $4.3 million for a violation of the HIPAA privacy rule.

However, there was no privacy violation. Instead, Cignet Health denied 41 patients’ access to their medical records as HIPAA requires. For this, Cignet was fined $1.3 million. For failing to cooperate with the investigation, Cignet was fined $3 million. Government keeps all the money.

The federal press release claimed that protecting health information privacy “is vital to our health care system.” But, HIPAA does not protect privacy. It allows broad sharing of medical records without consent. Federal officials used this access violation to perpetuate false assurances of privacy where there are none.

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